

REMARKS

In the Official Action of August 12, 2005, the Examiner rejected claims 1, 3–7, and 9–23 pursuant to 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) in view of Goddard (U.S. Patent No. 6,684,240). Dependent claims 2 and 8 were rejected pursuant to 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) in view of Goddard and Kawamura (U.S. Patent No. 6,535,688). On November 12, 2005, Applicant responded by amending the claims to clarify that program type identifiers are displayed and that one of more program type identifiers are identified as being valid or invalid. In the Official Action of April 20, 2006, the Examiner rejected claims 1, 3–7, and 9–23 pursuant to 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) in view of Goddard and Knudson (U.S. Patent No. 6,473,559).

It is important to note that Goddard is concerned with *blocking content* if a certain program type identifier is found. (See, e.g., Figures 1 and 2, col. 6, lines 1-14.) Indeed, Goddard allows certain types of contact to be blocked. (See, e.g., Figure 5.) However, Goddard is only concerned with precluding the *viewing* of any program that is associated with a certain type of content. It does not address whether program type information is or is not used for *searching*.

Applicant herein addresses each of the independent claims as presently presented:

Claim1

As presently presented, claim 1 requires:

1. A receiver comprising:
a receiving unit operable to receive a plurality of program information segments, each of said plurality of program information segments being associated with a plurality of program type identifiers;

a program type information extracting unit in communication with the receiving unit, the program type information extracting unit operable to extract a plurality of program type identifiers from an input signal;

a program type information editing unit in communication with said receiving unit and operable to designate at least one of said plurality of program type identifiers invalid in response to a user input;

an editing result storage unit in communication with said receiving unit and operable to identify program type identifiers that have been designated invalid by said program type information editing unit;

a program search processing unit in communication with the editing result storage unit, the program search processing unit operable to search for programs using only program type identifiers that have not been designated invalid; and

a display unit in communication with said receiving unit and operable to display a title of a program information segment, to display a plurality of program type identifiers, and to identify one or more program type identifiers as being invalid.

The Goddard reference and the invention of claim 1 address two different issues. Goddard is concerned with content blocking, *i.e.*, preventing certain types of content from being viewed by certain viewers. Claim 1 addresses more efficiently searching for a desired program. The searching aspect of claim 1 is well-established in the specification. (*See, e.g.*, page 2, cols. 14 -28.)

Applicant has amended claim 1 to emphasize this distinction. In particular, claim 1 now recites a program search processing unit that searches for programs and will only use program type identifiers that have not been designated invalid. The prior art cited by the Examiner fails to disclose this element. As such, claim 1 specifically requires that the program type identifiers are used for searching for programs. Goddard only uses program type identifiers for blocking.

With respect to the “display unit,” in the April 20, 2006 Office Action, the Examiner asserted that a display unit is found in the Goddard reference because “display system 612, Fig. 6, display 614, Figs. 1 and 2 show the block/unblock (valid/invalid) of channels, col. 4, lines 31-45.” (April 20, 2006 Official Action, at 5.) Figures 1 and 2, cited by the Examiner, show the display of a “block/unblock” command button. This button is designed to open up a window in which the user can set whether the content should be blocked, it does not provide the display of a program type identifier, or as claimed a plurality of program type identifiers in which at least one is identified as invalid. At best, Figure 5 of Goddard shows multiple program type identifiers with check marks for content to block. However, this figure does not show the title of the program.

Nonetheless, Applicant concedes that this claim element, as presently claimed, does not require simultaneous display of the titles, multiple program type identifiers, and the identification of one or more identifiers as being invalid. In lieu of amending claim 1 to require simultaneous display, Applicant notes that this claim has been amended to add the program search processing unit.

Applicant has also added the words “to display” in the last clause for clarification.

Claim 7

As presently presented, claim 7 requires:

7. A receiver comprising:
a receiving unit operable to receive a plurality of program information segments, each of said plurality of program information segments being associated with a plurality of program type identifiers;

a program type information extracting unit in communication with the receiving unit, the program type information extracting unit operable to extract a plurality of program type identifiers from an input signal;

a program type information editing unit in communication with said receiving unit and operable to designate at least one of said plurality of program type identifiers valid for the program segment in response to a user input;

an editing result storage unit in communication with said receiving unit and operable to identify program type identifiers that have been designated valid by said program type information editing unit;

a program search processing unit in communication with the editing result storage unit, the program search processing unit operable to search for programs using only program type identifiers that are designated valid; and

a display unit in communication with said receiving unit and operable to display a title of a program information segment, to display a plurality of program type identifiers, and to identify one or more program type identifiers as being valid;

wherein the program type editing unit designates the at least one of said plurality of program type identifiers as being valid for the program information segment, even if the at least one of said plurality of program type identifiers was not associated with the program information segment when received by the receiving unit.

Claim 7 has been amended similarly to claim 1. In particular, claim 7 now includes a program search processing unit. The inclusion of this element emphasizes the distinction between blocking based on a program type identifier and searching using validity designations for program type identifiers.

Claim 15

As presently presented, claim 15 requires:

15. A program search method, said program search method comprising the acts of:

receiving a plurality of program information segments, each of said program information segments being associated with a plurality of program type identifiers;

associating a program type validity designation with at least one of said program type identifiers;

storing results of said act of associating a program type validity designation with at least one of said program type identifiers;

identifying one or more program type identifiers as being invalid; and

searching for one or more programs that include one or more program type identifiers than have not been identified as being invalid.

Claim 15 has also been amended to clarify the distinction between blocking and searching. As presently presented, claim 15 requires the act of searching for one or more programs that include one or more program type identifiers that have not been identified as invalid.

Applicant respectfully requests the Examiner grant allowance of this application. The Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned attorney for the Applicant via telephone if such communication would expedite this application.

Respectfully submitted,



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